Vol. III. Numb. 34.

The EXAMINER.

From Monday *March* 16, to Friday *March* 20, 1712.

Eſt aliquid prodire tenus, ſi non datur ultra. Horace.

WHEN a Man has been for ſome time engag'd in the Drudgery of Weeding an immenſe Field of Corruptions, and Rooting out thoſe Prejudices and popular Miſtakes, which Education, Intereſt, Party, and the indefatigable Induſtry of the Leaders of a *Faction*, have ſown and planted in the Minds of a few miſguided *Bigots*; it is ſome Satisfaction, and a Reward worthy a generous Temper and publick Spirit, to find, that he has not Toil'd in vain; that he has made ſome hopeful Advances in the great End he propoſed to accompliſh, and can give a tolerable Account of the Patients under his Care. There is a good deal of *Energy* in Truth, if we will but give it time to work and exert it ſelf; and tho' it be laid deep, and loaded never ſo heavily, it will heave and ſtruggle, and in time Overturn thoſe ſandy Foundations, that were built over it, and erected on its Ruins. On the other hand, Prejudice is a *Cronical* Diſtemper; all its Fits and Returns are dated; we muſt Humour the Malady, and watch the favourable *Criſis*, when our Applications may be acceptable and efficacious: Falſhood, like one of our late *Projects for improving Money*, may, by the Wheadle of the Managers, the Titillation of imaginary Hopes, the Humour of Novelty, or the Contagion of Example, prevail for a time; but for want of a real Fund, when the *Run* is well ſpent, and the Cheat begins to ſhew it ſelf in its proper Colours, the *Contributors* will leiſurely recover their Senſes, and draw out of it as faſt as they can.

The Cauſe of the *Whigs* is a fair Inſtance of the Truth of theſe Reflections: Whilſt it was high-fed and well paid, back'd with a Multitude, and, like the *Moon* in the *Claſſical* Accounts of her Eclipſes, aſſiſted at every *Labour* by the approv'd *Midwifery* of *Din* and *Clamour*, it appear'd with a mighty Blaze, terrible and portentous; the Multitude ran greedily after it, all Eyes were turn'd that way; it tower'd and bore aloft, defied a grovling diſtant Foe, and by being out of reach, ſeem'd at leaſt to be out of Danger. But now theſe Props are taken away, the whole Machine totters; as the Charm drew to a concluſion, the *Demon* began to diſappear; and when all the gilded Artifices were ſtrip'd from the imaginary Argument, the whole *Fallacy* ſhew'd naked and barefaced. We now ſee through the Miſt, and are ſurpriz'd into a right Underſtanding by the Diſcovery: That noiſie Tempeſt, which roar'd ſo loud, and diſplayed ſo much Terror, ſettles and ſtagnates into *common Air*; and we neither ſee nor feel what lately ruffled and ſhook, and put us into ſo much Diſorder. We find we were cheated with Words, and tired with Fighting for a Shadow; or if there be any thing real in *Faction*, beſides the Miſchief it does, when all its falſe Colours and ſcaly Appearances peel and ſhed, it is reduced to the miſerable State, ſo pathetically deſcribed by the *Romaniſts* in *Tranſubſtantiation*, of ſubſiſting upon the thin ſlender Allowance of *outward Accidents*.

Thoſe among the *Whigs*, who did not give up all their Senſes and Intellectuals to their Party, begin at length to find the Sweets of that Reſerve: It has been my conſtant Care to co-operate with this dim Light, in order to lead them out of thoſe dark Mazes, in which they have been ſo long bewilder'd; and tho' I cannot boaſt of many *entire Converts*, ſuch as came over without bringing their valuable Conſiderations along with them, or without entertaining Views and Proſpects of *ſomething* more reſplendent than the Truths reflected from my *Papers*; yet give me leave to mention a Sett of *Proficients*, juſt ſprung up; for whoſe Good and Reformation I labour, and who by their towardly and teachable Diſpoſitions, are a great Joy and Comfort to me: I mean thoſe worthy Gentlemen, who now openly declare, *That they are* Tories *in the Church, but* Whigs *in the State*: Theſe Brethren, *by the Mother*, are come half way towards us; and as a mark of their Affection, have made a Preſent to us of their *Better Part*. The Proofs which *ſome* of them produce for this half Share and equal Dividend in our Principles, is, That they gave up the *Diſſenters*, and made the Church eaſie by the *Occaſional Bill*: By this Attonement they would patch up a Reconciliation with the Clergy; and they venture ſo far as not only to like the Church, but in Fact to frequent it; tho' whether out of leiſure or inclination, or only for Novelty's ſake, I cannot preſume to ſay. Others who are one remove further off, think to make their Court, by a voluntary Surrender of ſeveral unneceſſary Hereſies, as *Socinianiſm*, *Deiſm*, and the like, reſerving the *Diſſenters* ſtill in *petto*: For not above three Nights ago, News was brought to the *Græcian*, That a certain *noble Author* had relapſed into *Chriſtianity*; and another, of his Acquaintance at the *Smyrna*, was heard to drop ſeveral ſuſpicious Words in favour of *Moſes*, and to ſay abundance of civil Things of *one* or *two* of the *Apoſtles*. A *Paſtor* of the *Weſt* has left off all Thoughts of modern Policy, on purpoſe to duſt over his old Papers; whereby he hopes to convince the World, he had once ſome religious Notions in his Poſſeſſion; and it is expected he will ſhortly *reviſe* his *Aberdeen* and *Glaſcow* Sentiments of *Obedience*, with a *Preface ſuitable to the preſent Times*; there being no *Time* like the *Time preſent*, either for *Doctrine* or *Uſe*. A third Sort of *Proficients* will come no nearer the *Tories* than the *Font*: They are willing to give them up that once controverted Point of *Chriſtianity*, and that is all: They are contentented to allow, That there is really ſomething in *Revelation*, and to make a *Separate Peace* excluſive only of a ſmall Body of their *Allies*, and would ſacrifice the *Free-Thinkers* to the Church; not unlike ſome jaded Rakes of the Town, whom a little Vertue and many Sufferings have reduced to a good Opinion of Marriage; the firſt Compliment they uſually make an honourable Miſtreſs, is, That they will turn off a *Stale Whore* they have been long tir'd with.

Whatever the more rigid *Diſciplinarians* may think of theſe *Demi-Proſelites*, they ought certainly to be entertained and encouraged, as Babes of Grace, who in time may grow to a perfect Manhood. If they will modeſtly own, that they have but juſt begun to ſtudy the Merits of the Cauſe, abſtracted from the Appendix of Profit and Intereſt, which formerly took up all their Thoughts and Actions; and that, with great Judgment, they entred upon the moſt material Part of the Subject firſt, which is the *Church*, and have happily gone through it, to their Satisfaction and Amendment; the *Secular Topicks* being at preſent under Debate, and upon which they are not yet come to any Reſolutions; this is ſo plauſible a Plea, that, in Candour, I think, we ought to admit it; and after ſo plain a Declaration of Deficiency, to accept of *Half* in part of Payment, till they are in a condition to clear Accounts with us.

The Progreſs, which they have already made, affords us many uſeful and ſeaſonable Speculations. It may ſerve

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to convince that Party, what great Reason they have to be diffident and diſtruſtful of their Cauſe; and not to aſſume and take upon them, as if they were Infallible, and uncapable of being in the Wrong; ſince they plainly ſee, that after a few Months peruſal, *one Half* of their Principles are unſound, that they have been blind of *one* Eye, and tainted in their *better Part*; which Conſideration alone is ſufficient to give them Scruples, that their *other Part*, by far the moſt liable to Corruption, may, in all probability, be touch'd a little, and ſtand in need of a Cure. It alſo confirms us in a *Notion*, which has formerly coſt us ſome trouble to make out, That the *Church is not a meer Creature of the State*, nor *wholly Dependent* on it; ſince ſo many *Whigs* can openly profeſs their Conformity to *One*, at the ſame time that they Diſſent from the other: And perhaps our Moderation may take this Hint to ſuggeſt to us, that there may be ſome real Defects in the State, which obſtruct their coming over entirely, and joining with the *Tories* in *Temporals* as well as *Spirituals*; it is poſſible they may have ſome other *Bills* upon the Anvil, beſides that of *Conformity*; and are diſpoſed to expreſs their Zeal as well as Good-liking for the *Church*, by making her not only Eaſie but Flouriſhing: For *new Converts*, like *Pendulums*, are as apt to ſway as much one way as t'other: Or, it may be, they wait for the *Peace*, as a laſting Security of our Conſtitution, Laws, and Religion: If it be ſo, the Government would do well to forward ſo uſeful and pious a Work, and to haſten the Bleſſing whence they are to Date their entire Reformation.

Give me leave, in the mean time, to offer a Word or two by way of Caution. It is natural to ſuſpect Converts, to watch them cloſely, and ſift them narrowly; but Perſons only *Half Converted*, muſt expect more ſevere Trials; and therefore I would put it to their Conſciences, weak and rickety as they are, whether they can be really ſure of their own Sincerity: In this Caſe, it is not unlikely, but what they call Converſion, may be only a *Political Feint*, in order to recover a bad Game: And becauſe they find, or at leaſt imagine, that they fell by making the Attack in the wrong Place; and that, however the Populace might be Lured to their Side in State-Projects, they would never be brought to Back them in open Efforts againſt the Church, or lend their Shoulders to the Overturning it; therefore they think it neceſſary to drop *One Half* of their Character, and declare loudly for the Church, rather than ſuffer the Flower of their Forces to *Deſert*; but this, if it be the Caſe, is ſo far from a real Converſion, that 'tis, in effect, rather a Refining upon their Old *Whig* Principles; they are the ſame Men, only they would willingly be more ſucceſsful. Beſides theſe, there may be other worldly Reaſons aſſign'd for this Religious Turn: It is probable they Dream of a *Coalition*, and, whilſt the Government is ſo much diverted, fancy that they purpoſely overlook the Home-Intereſt; and are for ſplitting the *Civil Liſt*, and letting in ſuch cool temperate Gentlemen, as are willing to *bate Half*, rather than not to cloſe with a good Offer: If ſo, the Change they pretend to have made, muſt be imputed to Ambition, Avarice, and other ſordid Motives; and by *coming to Church*, they mean no more than *going to Market*. They ought to conſider further, whether the Whole be not *Farce* and *Banter*; for too many of them have Talk'd and Wrote of the Church, as of a meer Political Invention, a State-Engine, a Trifle, an Amuſement, not worth a Gentleman's Quarrelling about, whoſe Education is above Prejudice or Cuſtom, and his *Genius* far removed from the *Caprice* of the Mob. Suppoſe this to be Fact, and then their joining with the *Tories* in the Church-Intereſt, is joining with them in *Nothing*, in a *Word*, a *Term* of *State-craft*, the *Chimes* of the Day; and this *Mock Converſion* is only to ſet themſelves right again with the People, upon eaſie Conditions; at the ſame time avoiding all Offence with their forme Friends, from whom they are not to be parted by Trifles; ſince at the ſame time, in vertue of ſuch *Nanacks*, they can be introduced, where they may be underhand able to do them ſo much Service; when, like Lovers, they find the *Nymph* ſo very Eaſie and Coming, as to re-admit a Baniſh'd Inconſtant, upon the Recommendation of a few Toys, a *Fan*, a *Ring*, or a *Snuff-Box*.

But leaving their Integrity to their own Hearts; they can never be very Sanguine in their Expectations of a too favourable Treatment from the Party to whom they have made theſe Advances. Such of them, as are already in the Service, if they will do but *Half-Duty*, can in Juſtice demand no more than *Half-Pay*; or, to bring things to a more equitable Ballance, their Places ought to be ſplit, and ſome able and full-grown *State-Tory*, who can make up the remainder of Honeſty that is wanting in them, be admitted into a Dividend of their Salaries and Perquiſites, as their *Aſſiſtant* and *Coadjutor*, for a *Roman* Reaſon, *Ne quid detrimenti capiat Reſpublica*; that when the Government comes upon that Office, they may find an Incumbent in it, compleatly qualify'd for his Buſineſs, tho' that Qualification be ſet out in Parts, and to patch up the degeneracy of the Times, two *Partners* in an Office muſt go to *one* honeſt Man. After all, it muſt be remembred, that the *Whigs* were ſo far from indulging *Tender Conſciences* and Converts by *halves*, or allowing their Subalterns to diſpute the Orders of a commanding Officer; they were ſuch rigid Caſuiſts, ſuch ſtrenuous Maintainers of *Perfection*, and exacted ſuch an entire Obedience from all under them, that none were admitted upon their *Liſts*, who could not come as roundly into their Principles: Even they, who bought their Places, were not ſuffered to commute for their Loyalty: Every Candidate muſt be a try'd *Whig*; and if his Zeal carry'd him as far as *Deiſm* or *Free-Thinking*, it was plac'd to his Account as a Work of *Supererrogation*. They had *Tallies* for *Men* as well as for *Money*; and when the *wooden Thing* came to their Hands, and did not anſwer exactly, it was rejected as Counterfeit. Whether the good Nature of the Government will permit them to take advantage of the known Meaſures of a ſubtle Enemy, and to turn their Stratagems upon them, is not for me to determine. Theſe Spiritual Tories are certainly not to be neglected, when they would make their way to us by ſo commodious a *Thoroughfare* as the Church: But ſince their Converſion reſpects thoſe Articles only, which are purely *Ghoſtly* and *Religious*, they cannot take it amiſs if they are put off to *another World*, where they may be preferr'd and rewarded in their kind. What the Church will do for them in this military State, in which they have formerly ſufficiently exercis'd her, muſt be left to its Governours; but whilſt the State is *Tory*, its Favours and Temporalities ought to be confin'd to thoſe within the Pale: For we might be juſtly charged with *Popiſh* Principles, if we any ways encouraged *Half-Communion*.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Juſt Publiſh'd by Authority,

¶§ The Renunciations of the King of Spain to the Crown of France, and of the Dukes of Berry and Orleans to the Crown of Spain; together with the Letters Patents of his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, dated in the Month of December, 1700. and those dated in the Month of March, 1713. allowing of the aboveſaid Renunciations, and revoking the ſaid Letters Patents of the Month of December, 1700. Printed by Benj. Tooke at the Temple-gate, and John Barber on Lambeth-hill. Price 1s.

§¶ An Anſwer to a Pamphlet, entituled, Frauds and Abuſes at St. Paul's. With an Appendix relating to the Revenues and Repairs of that Cathedral. Printed for John Morphew, near Stationer's Hall. Price 1s.

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